PART V:

MAINTENANCE GUIDE

Introduction:

The challenge of maintaining the Truman landscape will be to perpetuate the historic scene of 1953-1972 while allowing the vegetation a range of dynamic interaction with its environment. The range of vegetative development will be manipulated and influenced by contemporary knowledge of maintenance practices that will prescribe a vigorous and healthy landscape.

Should insect or disease problems be observed, the National Park Service's "Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Information Manual" should be consulted. For additional information, the Regional IPM Coordinator should be contacted. What will need to be determined are injury (to the vegetation) and action (by the park) levels in order to decide on a selection of least disruptive tactics.

Listed below for trees, shrubs, turf, and perennials are guidelines for maintenance applications and replacement procedures.

TREES

Maintenance:

Existing tree maintenance will focus on monitoring trees for specific problems and occasional upkeep. Normally established trees will absorb needed water naturally and obtain supplemental fertilization from regular lawn feedings. Although trees are not specifically shaped or contained for visual effect, maintenance on trees will be to react to storm damage, disease concerns, and safety/protection issues through pruning. All trees can be pruned in any part of the dormant season with the exception of maples which should be pruned in the fall to prevent the profuse bleeding which occurs with spring pruning. Trees should be pruned when limbs are damaged, diseased, or dead. Caution must be taken to disinfect tools after pruning diseased wood so as not to spread the infection. Carefully and selectively prune to prevent problems such as crossing and rubbing limbs, weak growth, and limbs touching or overlapping structures. Preventive pruning can also be employed to lighten outer branches to make limbs less susceptible to wind and ice damage. Although trees are not to be artificially shaped, the tree should be kept in a natural-looking balance.

Safety must be emphasized as a priority when pruning trees. Because of the height and often deceptive weight of tree branches added to the possibility of working from high off the ground, the chance for a serious accident is real unless extreme caution is observed. Because the expertise and proper equipment does not exist in-house, it is best to contract tree pruning and other surgical repairs.

Replacement:

Trees eventually will have to be replaced because of disease, storm damage, or old age. Because of their size and scale in the Truman landscape, the trees will have a very dramatic effect on the historic scene when replaced as they would if allowed to die before scheduling replacement. It is not always obvious when to replace a deteriorating tree that changes slowly and is able to push out foliage each spring to blend with damaged, diseased, or dead wood. However, there is a point when the tree can no longer be repaired satisfactorily; it should be replaced before it detracts from the historic scene or becomes a safety hazard.

Replacement trees will be like in kind and placed in the same location, with as large a specimen utilized as practical. No more than 2 replacement trees should be planted over the span of 3 to 5 years. Trees are a dominant form and care must be taken not to change the look of the landscape dramatically at one time. To replace any tree or other planting, an XXX Form (Assessment of Actions Having An Effect on Cultural Resources) needs to be initiated to satisfy requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Replacing the American elm may need special clearance because of its susceptibility to Dutch elm disease. (Park management should be aware that the city's heritage district ordinance prohibits replanting of the American elm).

Once a tree has been planted, it is difficult to make amendments to the soil. Therefore, at the time of planting it is desirable to dig a hole 2 to 3 times larger than the tree's rootball to add good topsoil and organic matter as backfill. The soil around the tree must then be carefully tamped and the tree staked with 2- to 3-inch sapling poles of cedar or a similar material. The objective here is two-fold: (1) to keep the tree erect until solid roots are formed; and (2) to stake the tree in a manner of the period. Ties for the tree should be 3/4-inch hemp rope. Care must be taken to keep the tree watered through the first summer.

SHRUBS

Maintenance:

Listed shrubs should appear vigorous and healthy and receive maintenance that emphasizes a natural rather than a formal look. Whenever a shrub cannot be maintained, it should be replaced in kind in the same location.

Pruning shrubs will be a major activity for their proper maintenance for the following reasons:

1. direct and control growth
2. physical reasons
3. correct or repair damage
4. rejuvenation

1. Direct and control growth: Prune to restore the shape of the plant. When side branches are removed, growth of the central leader (main trunk) is spurred; when the top of the leaders or main branches are removed, the growth of the side branches is spurred. Using these growth diversion techniques will help keep the plant sized and shaped. Safety note: Vegetation spilling onto sidewalk should be controlled to allow visitors full use of the walkway.

2. Physical reasons: Shrubs are pruned to remove excess wood such as weak and crossing branches. Branches that cross and rub are undesirable because bark is injured thus providing an excellent spot for dehydration and invasion by insects and diseases. All branches that rub must not be removed or the result will be a shrub possessing only one limb. Only the larger branches that produce the worst rubbing damage should be removed. Thinning out crowded conditions also allows light, moisture, and air to promote foliage on the inside and lower areas of the shrub.

3. Correct or repair damage: When storms break branches, cut the branch back to another principal branch or to the trunk. If a branch is diseased or insect infested, cut the branch back to healthy wood. If these branches are allowed to remain, they too will serve as a harboring spot for pests.

4. Rejuvenation: Lastly, and perhaps most important, is renewal pruning. This is done to rejuvenate a shrub and keep new wood coming along and in proper balance with the old. A shrub that is never pruned will end up with a high percentage of old wood that will cause the plant to lose its shape and do a poor job of flowering. Generally, most flowering shrubs are pruned after

flowering. Rejuvenation of plant material will be a multi-year process which is described below.

Shrub Rejuvenation: Year 1

1. Prune out dead, damaged, and deformed branches and canes.

2. Prune out from 1/4 to 1/3 of the living mature branches and/or canes.

3. Concentrate on pruning out old wood usually at the center of the shrub.

4. Limbs should be taken out close to the ground. No stubs should remain around the shrub when pruning to keep pruning in balance.

5. Lightly trim off a few branches in the upper half of the shrub to try and shape. When cutting for shaping work around the shrub, cut at different heights and try to make the cut just above a lateral bud which faces outward.

6. Do not worry about overall height during the first year.

7. Clean out around the interior of the plant base. Remove leaves, debris and other loose material that collects in the base of multi-stemmed shrubs.

8. The overall finished form or look of the shrub should be a more open, lighter, and less cluttered appearance. This will allow room for light and air circulation promoting a healthier plant which will perpetuate itself within the existing plant base rather than forcing the plant to "creep" outside the perimeter of the base.

Shrub Rejuvenation: Year 2

In the second year, again cut out dead, damaged, and deformed branches and/or canes to the ground. Select a quarter of the oldest wood and cut to the ground. You should start noticing new branches and/or canes that are growing and filling in the shrub. Selectively cut from the upper half branches/canes at various heights to bring the shrub down to the size required. It is desirable to leave some branches and canes that are different heights to give a more natural appearance.

Shrub Rejuvenation: Years 3 and 4

Repeat the above process and work with the plant until it attains the form (height, shape, depth, and fullness) required. Depending on the plant's condition, rejuvenation pruning may well result in eventually cutting away all original wood to allow new

growth to take its place. This will be especially true for plants massed together such as spirea and forsythia. Where there is a single mature specimen standing alone with a few major well-developed woody stems resembling small tree trunks, it becomes more visually critical what is done. Ensure that there is some vigorous new growth before cutting out old stems in order that the visual appearance of the procedure is less dramatic.

As with any other major operation, the proper tools are a must. A good set of hand pruners is essential for wood up to 3/4-inch in diameter. Graduate to long-handled clippers or loppers for the larger wood. When the diameter of the branch exceeds one inch, a pruning saw should be used. Use only saws that have teeth on one side of the blade. Some pruning saws have teeth on both sides, but these are difficult to use since the side not in use often damages adjoining desirable wood while undesirable wood is being removed. Curved-bladed pruning saws are the best for preventing damage.

Replacement:

When a shrub no longer responds to maintenance practices or succumbs to the effects of weather, disease, or other deterioration factors, a replacement shrub will be sought. The emphasis in any replacement will be to do it "gently" so as not to dramatically create a new scene, but to enhance the existing landscape. The credibility of any replacement action is only as good as the effort made to carefully place the correct plant material.

Considerations that need to be addressed when replacing plant material are:

1. When locating new material, use scientific names. Common names can vary area to area.

2. After removal of existing shrub remnants, redefine planting hole so at least 18-inches of rich topsoil can surround new shrub root system.

3. Make sure shrubs are planted at the same level at which they grew in their containers.

4. When placing backfill, fill halfway, tamp soil down and around root area, water thoroughly, and let soak up.

5. Adjust plant for proper level, plumb, complete backfill, tamp, and water.

6. Do not fertilize at time of planting, let new growth show, then fertilize.

7. Continue supplemental watering during the first growth season.

SHRUB MAINTENANCE

The following list describes general pruning requirements for specific shrubs.

Forsythia:

To rejuvenate plant, prune out up to 1/4 of the stems that are cut to the ground after the shrub finishes blooming each spring. Look for weak and damaged growth to be pruned out. Limbs may weep, but do not allow them to rest on the ground or new plants can root causing plant locations to "creep" out of location.

Flowering Quince:

Left alone, the quince can grow into a thicket, their flowers hidden by tangles. Prune out weak branches, suckers, and cross limbs in the dormant season (late winter).

Honeysuckle:

During the winter months, thin out some of the older branches that have become woody to encourage fresh new growth. After blooming, cut off some of the overhang shoots and head back slightly some of the terminals to encourage the plant to stay filled in with vegetation.

Lilac:

Lilacs require only a minimal amount of pruning. Cutting flowers in the spring and removing faded flower clusters are all the pruning young plants need. If it is desirable to increase the planting, allow the suckers to remain and to root, but prune out old and dead wood. To rejuvenate old plants, remove a quarter of the old wood early each spring.

Mock White Orange:

Prune as soon as possible after flowers fade. Do not shear shrubs into a trimmed hedge, but keep an informal growth look. Remove a few of the old flowering canes at ground level when they begin to crowd the center of the bush. Renewal pruning is required.

Barberry:

To keep plant vigorous and renewed, occasionally in late winter cut back an old woody branch to a well-placed side shoot. Do not leave stubs to die back and cause rot. Thin

out crowded centers and try not to alter the basic, informal shape of the shrub.

Rose of Sharon:

Prune in late winter or early spring. Thin out selective old growth. White and pink flowers are produced on new wood in late summer and early fall. Remove crossing or conflicting branches leaving the strongest and those providing the best framework. Prune back two or three buds and cut out vegetation that has been blackened by frost. Do not shear like a hedge, but instead, cut out a few branches at different heights.

Spirea:

Thin some branches, head others back to young laterals. Remove some of the oldest wood by cutting back to ground. Where they are planted in groups, the general appearance of the spirea is more of an informal hedge look. Renewal type pruning is required.

Shrub (Wild) Rose:

A good time for pruning is toward the end of the dormant season after all hard frosts. Cut back any shoots that mar the general appearance and remove any old, unproductive canes. Remove all weak, damaged, or winter-kill wood.

Hybrid Roses:

Prune in early spring. Prune all dead and weak branches. Open up center of bush by removing all branches that cross through the center. Remove up to 1/3 of the length of growth that was new during the previous season. Pruning should be to all stems and canes that are light green to cream-white in the center. Cuts should be 1/2-inch above a leaf bud at a 45-degree angle. Larger cuts, above 1/2-inch, must be sealed. They will also require special winter protection care. Note: Successful hybrid roses require a pesticide program that will have to be coordinated with the Regional Integrated Pest Management specialist.

SHRUB BEDS/BASES:

Beds:

Shrub beds are areas where multiple plants share a common, defined soil bed. These areas are adjacent to the Truman home and have a defined outer edge. Lawns and weeds (as well as loose debris) have a tendency to spread in planting beds

creating an unkempt appearance to the yard. At least once each year (late spring) it is important to recut the edge to define it from the turf. With curved beds in front of the home, lay out a flexible hose or rope and follow it being careful not to enlarge the beds. The interior of the beds should be cleaned up once in the spring and once in the summer removing (may require light tilling) grasses, weeds, moss, and loose debris being careful not to disturb plant roots. If roots or plant base appears exposed or mounding, add a small layer of supplemental topsoil around the base of the plant. Mulching was not done historically.

Shrub Bases:

Individual shrubs planted in lawn areas without defined beds should have their bases kept clean of loose debris and grass around the base area should be clipped short. Shrubs in masses will tend to restrict grass growth under them creating their own irregular-shaped beds which only need to have the debris raked out and the grass trimmed around the edges.

TURF

Proper maintenance of the turf will perpetuate it in a healthy and consistent appearance. Several measures can be taken to strengthen the existing turf grasses through a comprehensive turf maintenance program that will help lawn grasses to compete against invading exotic weeds, diseases, and insects.

A. Mowing:

Start in the spring when there is new growth to cut. It is not practical to say that mowing should take place every week or every two weeks. This will depend upon the weather. During wet and cooler periods the lawn will grow faster than during dry and hot times. It will also grow faster (1 week) after fertilization. Mow frequently enough so that no more than 1/2 of the total grass blade is removed. Continue mowing as late in the fall as the grass will grow. Avoid mowing too low. This can weaken the grass and encourage weeds and other problems. The mowing height should be a minimum of 2 inches in the spring and fall and be raised to a minimum of 2 1/2 to 3 inches in the summer. The first mowing in the spring and the last mowing in the fall can be less than 2 inches to effect a clean-up of the turf. It is best not to mow wet grass or right after fertilizing to prevent vacuuming the fertilizer granules off the turf. Always make sure the mower blade is sharp. Because of the problem concerning thatch buildup and for appearance, all grass cuttings need to be collected and removed.

Clipping/Edging of Turf: Clipping grass in areas that a mower cannot reach or edging grass along walkways will periodically be done so as to blend in with the general upkeep of the turf area. What this means is that clipping will not be necessary each time the lawn is mowed. Occasionally (monthly during the growing season), a weed whip, for example, can be used to knock down taller grasses under fences and other areas. Edging of turf along walkways should be done once each spring to redefine the edge and to keep grass from seriously encroaching the walkways. NOTE: When mowing is contracted out some compromise is often needed to develop a practical mowing schedule based on time rather than just environmental conditions.

B. Aeration:

Aerate once each spring (March) to help "loosen" the soil and allow better penetration of water, air, and nutrients to roots. Aeration is also a positive factor in mitigating thatch problems. A good procedure is to aerate just after the grass is mowed and prior to fertilizing. Then use rotary-type mower, without catcher, chopping up cores, and leaving them on the ground.

C. Fertilizing:

Fertilizing is important not just for the appearance of the turf, but it gives the turf an added "push" to establish itself so that it can compete against invading weeds and insects. Fertilization, a soil-related practice, should be done according to soil test recommendations taken every 2 to 3 years. It is better to manage a lawn based on soil tests than through a hit or miss program of applying lawn fertilizers during the season without specifications as to what grade to use and when to apply it. Soil should be sent for testing in the late autumn before it freezes. Two to four samples (about 1/2 cupful) should be taken about 3 inches below the surface from opposite areas in the yard. These should be mixed together and from this mixed sample about a cupful should be sent in for testing.

When the report from the soil testing laboratory is received, 3 items should be recorded: (1) nutrient levels and pH; (2) recommendations for fertilizer and lime application; and (3) how often to apply each during the year. The fertilizers recommended are usually high in nitrogen in relation to phosphorous and potash (3-1-2, 2-1-1, 4-1-2 ratios). Recommendations will usually suggest a spring feeding, another in September, and still another in November. A slow-release type of fertilizer is best.

D. Watering:

Water is another soil related factor that must be considered. Without water, plants will not grow. Without it, plant cells dry up because water is necessary to carry nutrients to these cells. The function of water in plants is very complex, and it is important to keep water at an optimum level in the soil. An application of 1 inch of water per week is ample in most cases unless natural rainfall is abundant. Over watering, on the other hand, can be just as bad as under watering. When soil becomes waterlogged, it does not permit proper aeration, and plants will wilt and eventually die. The correct water level is critical to plant growth, be the plants lawn grasses, perennials, shrubs, or trees. The rule to follow is that if the soil is moist at a level of 3 to 6 inches in depth for lawns, do not water. If it is dry, then water. The sprinkler should be left on long enough to water deeply, from 3 to 6 inches. One inch of actual water applied each week whether from rain or sprinkler should satisfy these goals.

It is best to program sprinkler systems so that watering occurs in the early morning before visitation begins. Watering in the evening may leave the lawn wet which will encourage disease growth.

E. General:

During the growing season, lawns should be checked between mowing to remove debris that has blown into the properties, or small limbs and leaves that have fallen from trees or shrubs. When autumn begins, fallen leaves should be raked regularly. It is acceptable to have lightly scattered leaves on lawns during this season, but when they start to accumulate where they completely cover the lawn, they must be removed lest they cause suffocating of the turf, especially newly planted areas. It is also important to remove leaves so that lawn mowing may continue as long as the grasses grow.

TURF REPLACEMENT

Since the lawn at Harry S Truman NHS is established, any lawn planting will be for repair and rehabilitation. Bare spots larger than a dinner plate or thin areas that expose a good portion of bare soil should be seeded. Seeding should be done in the spring (mid-March through April) or late-September and October. Smaller areas to receive seed should be scratched up to loosen the soil and provide a lodging place for the seed. Larger areas of bare ground or thin grass can be slit seeded if the existing soil is adequate. If areas are found to contain poor topsoil, till areas to remove a portion of the existing soil followed by the addition of good topsoil. Mix additional soil in with existing and fine grade to

blend in with adjacent ground. Areas that have a majority of weeds can use an approved herbicide then reseed. Check with the Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for an approved product.

Grass seed should be a mixture of common bluegrass (40 percent) with some shade-tolerant creeping red fescue (25 percent) and glade bluegrass and the remainder in stabilizing grasses such as annual rye. It is important to use a mixture rather than one pure strain of seed. This will give you versatility in warding off insects and diseases that may attack one strain plus be adaptable to sun or shade. Apply the seed by hand in small areas or by a spreader in larger areas and apply a starter type fertilizer. It is important that seed have contact with the ground. Rake seeded area to lightly cover seeds. Cover seeds with a thin layer of mulch and keep the young seedlings moist until they are well established.

TURF AILMENTS

1. Weeds:

   Various broad-leafed and grassy weeds were historically present in the Truman lawn and are to be accepted and mowed just as they would have been in the historic period. However, it is recommended to keep the lawn areas in a majority of turf grasses. Grassy and broad leaf weeds should first be controlled by promoting a good turf management program through proper mowing, watering, fertilizing, and seeding. Should weeds become a majority in areas larger than a square yard, it is appropriate to use approved chemical means to eliminate the weeds and to reestablish turf grasses. Contact the Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for information on current approved procedures and substances.

2. Pests:

   Turf-damaging pests fall into two basic groups: those that feed on leaf blades above the ground, and those that feed on roots and other underground parts. Keeping turf grasses in a healthy and vigorous condition will help to override damage caused by insects and should be pursued as the first line of defense. To prevent insects from contributing to major and lasting damage, chemical control may be necessary. Contact the Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for updated information on approved chemicals. Insect symptoms can manifest themselves by: (1) irregularly-shaped brown areas: armyworms or sod webworms; (2) dead turf spots 2 inches in diameter with grass chewed below mowing level: cutworms; and (3) dead grass in defined patches that may be lifted like loose sod: white grub. It is most important to

identify the problem insect and know when it is most susceptible during its lifecycle to control.

3. Diseases:

Often a well-maintained, vigorously growing lawn, supposedly free of insects will suddenly turn yellow in random spots and die. This can often be the problem of a fungus disease. Lawn fungus is much easier to prevent than cure. The best way to avoid fungus diseases is to plant grass appropriate to the area and condition (sun or shade). Next, proper turf maintenance will be the best course of action. Watering deeply, yet infrequently and in the morning, areation, and spring/fall fertilizing (avoid mid-summer high nitrogen fertilizer), will help lawns withstand fungus attacks. The least desirable method that may be necessary is a fungicidal control. Contact the Regional Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for updated and approved methods of control.

MAINTENANCE OF PERENNIALS, BULBS, AND VINES

As with all vegetation the focus is to perpetuate plants in a healthy and vigorous condition. In doing so the consequence will be an abundance of material which will need to be periodically trimmed, contained, and thinned. Some perennials will tightly clump together and push themselves out of the ground or into unwanted areas. When this situation occurs these perennials must be dug up and divided to get back into control. The containing and thinning of material can create a source for filling in areas where like material is missing. Whenever material is moved it should be replanted at the same level at which it grew. Spring bulbs and lilies are planted to a depth determined by the diameter of the bulb. A good rule of thumb is to plant bulbs three to four times their diameter in depth.

Certain perennials such as peonies should be left undisturbed. Any plant which is growing well and is not too large or heaving itself from the ground may be left in place.

Bulbs need not be divided until the plants become too thick. Daffodils, as an example, may suddenly stop flowering if they are too thick. Before replanting in an area be sure to cultivate the area by removing extraneous debris (rocks, dead roots, etc.) and mix the clean topsoil.

Since perennial areas are mostly in and adjacent to lawn areas, they will benefit from the fertilizer and water applied to these turf areas. Note those few areas not benefitting and supplement accordingly. The most important time to fertilize is once in the spring when growth begins and once again in the early summer using a complete fertilizer. Fertilizing after they have

flowered is not as effective. It is also desirable, with new plantings, to feed at the time of planting using a high phosphorous fertilizer such as 5-10-10.

The following is a list of perennials, bulbs, and ivies, by common name, and specific notes on their care:

Vinca/Periwinkle:

Water well during hot weather and occasionally trim at dead and broken vines and keep plant material trimmed off walkways.

Daffodils:

Be careful not to mow daffodils in the turf area until after flowering and foliage have died down. To perpetuate the daffodil bed, every 3 to 4 years, bulbs can be dug in the fall and the clumps divided. Do not forcibly break away bulbs that are tightly joined to the mother bulb. Remove only those that come away easily. Before replanting, cultivate daffodil bed with the addition of good topsoil and replant 8 inches from another bulb under 5 to 6 inches of soil that is mixed in with bone meal.

Tulips:

Tulips have a disappointing habit of blooming only for a few years and then merely showing vegetation or disappearing altogether. Sometimes rodents are responsible for the destruction of a tulip bed by eating the bulbs. The standard recommendation is to replant with new bulbs when plants fail to show blooms. Tulips may be propagated by offsets or separating new small bulbs from the parent. However, it can take another two years before the immature bulbs will be large enough to bloom. The time to plant new or reset existing bulbs is in the fall (October and November). Tulips bulbs need a cold period before they will produce. Plant bulbs approximately 5 inches deep in a good mix of topsoil adding in some bone meal or a phosphorus dominant fertilizer such as a 5-10-10.

Day Lilies:

Little care is needed. Water during blooming. Faded flowers can be snapped off daily and cut off died-back foliage in the fall. To perpetuate, divide tuberous roots in early winter. Before replanting, enrich the soil with additional topsoil mixed in with bone meal.

Surprise lilies:

This plant has two active growth cycles each year. Take care not to mow over faded first growth foliage thereby destroying second growth flower stems and buds that appear after foliage dies back. Propagate like other bulbs.

Iris:

Water during growth and bloom cycle. When old clumps begin to get hollow in the center, lift and divide in the fall. Divide rhizomes with sharp knife; discard older, woody center, replant immediately healthy sections with a good fan of leaves. Trim leaves to 6 inches for convenient handling.

Peony:

Ample water in spring and summer. Cut off stems at ground level after leaves turn brown. Cut out and dispose of all withered buds, stems, or brown spotted leaves. To propagate, dig roots in the fall and divide carefully into sections with at least 3 eyes (pink growth buds) on each section.

Grapevine:

Care must be taken to encourage this vine to utilize support wires so it can climb and establish itself up and on the south side of the porch. Care should also be taken to ensure that the vine continues to wrap itself around the east side of the porch. Pruning is the simple operation of keeping the vine restrained to the permanent area it is supposed to cover. It is not necessary to cut the previous year's wood back severely as is done for the production of fruits. If there is a need to retrain or rejuvenate the vine, cut off all but the strongest, healthiest cane while dormant in wintertime. Let the leader cane grow upward toward the screened porch area. Attach a small mesh net on the outside of the screen area for the grapevine to climb on.

In the following summer, let the side shoots and the main leader grow on the upper third of the plant. Cut off the side shoots on the bottom two-thirds. Tie the vine near the top and at the middle for support. When the vine reaches toward the top of the porch, emphasize lateral growth by cutting back the main stem and thinning out the lateral branches to 1 foot apart. Vines are deep-rooted. During growing season, water deeply. Vines will respond nicely to a little nitrogen fertilizer in the spring.

English ivy:

Water well during hot weather. The best time to water is in early morning to prevent a bacterial leaf spot. Occasionally, trim around the edges. Clip to keep in bounds. Be careful the ivy does not smother out adjacent plants. May be propagated from cuttings.